

Wireless 911 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 6, 2006
Public Service Commission Library
300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

Meeting was called to order by Sheriff Neil Miller at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call

Advisory Board Members Present:

Sheriff Neil Miller

Pete Peterson

Bill McLarty

Bill Ashburn

Larry Lavelle

Isaac Brown

Mark Conrey

Advisory Board Members Not Present: Mark Masterton and Virginia Vance.

Present from the Commission: Commissioner Gerald Vap, Commissioner Lowell Johnson, Commissioner Anne Boyle, Jeff Pursley, Angela Melton, Joan Raffety, and Tyler Frost.

Emergency Agenda Items

Sheriff Miller reported that he had received information, which is not confirmed, that Centralink maintenance may be extended for an additional 12 months of support. Commissioner Vap advised that PSAPs should still move forward with getting their ANI/ALI controllers replaced since there is no written documentation of this extension.

Jeff Pursley inquired if funding requests are received after the December advisory board meeting if the advisory board would feel comfortable with handling those funding requests by email due to the necessity of the PSAPs moving forward with equipment replacements. The procedure followed could be that requests would be emailed to board members, the board members would have a period of time to review the funding request and let the Commission know if they had questions or concerns. If there were no questions or concerns, the request could be submitted to the Commission for consideration. If there were questions or concerns, the funding request would be held over to the next meeting.

Mark Conrey discussed bandwidth and connection issues with regard to IP-based equipment. Mark suggested that vendors should be contacted to inquire what the appropriate level of bandwidth should be to have appropriate voice quality for 911. Discussion was had that quality of service standards don't currently exist. Further discussion was had whether all PSAPs should be stand-alone host controllers or if the host-remote scenario is a viable option.

Discussions were had regarding the PSAPs moving towards host-remote equipment sharing. Determination would need to be made regarding minimum amount of bandwidth necessary in this scenario to take call and move to remote PSAPs based on one, two and three answering

positions. Question was posed if a PSAP has three or more answering positions should it be a host.

Discussion was had regarding the determination of requirements and specifications necessary for the host-remote scenario. Question is posed if the Commission needs to issue an RFP to all parties capable of providing bandwidth to determine if the network could benefit from a state-level buying power of this resource. Further discussions were had regarding the connection costs between host and remote and whether it is more equitable to have all stand-alone hosts or host-remote scenarios.

Interest is expressed in forming a subcommittee to determine the answers quickly to questions involving IP-based equipment issues.

Mark Conrey makes a motion to continue processing funding requests utilizing the same process that has been used in the past. Submit request, review, approve request. No second. Motion fails.

Bill Ashburn makes a motion that when requests for funding are received by Commission for replacement of Centralink equipment that the requests be emailed to advisory board for review. If advisory board does not have questions or concerns about funding request within seven days, the request can be taken to the Commission for consideration. Isaac Brown seconded. Roll call vote taken, with all members present voting aye.

Isaac Brown makes motion for chair to appoint a subcommittee, *including Commission staff*, to gather information to bring back to Advisory Board within next 30 days on where it appears our best investment is for recommendation to the Commission to proceed in replacing 911 switches addressing specifically two points: (1) To assure that we address next generation equipment issues for PSAPs at this point and whether it will be able to be upgraded in the future; (2) Whether host-remote configuration to PSAPs across the state is a viable option. Pete Peterson seconded. Roll call vote taken with all members present voting aye

Isaac Brown makes a motion to amend original motion to wait for 30 days to consider new funding requests. No second. Motion fails.

Isaac Brown makes a motion to amend to include commission staff in original motion. Larry Lavelle seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Consideration of approval of minutes of September 15, 2006 Meeting – Bill McLarty expressed concern that fund balance was not listed in minutes from previous meeting. Pete Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bill Ashburn seconded the motion. All members present voted to approve minutes as amended.

Correspondence

General Correspondence -- No correspondence was presented.

Sheriff Miller reported that NESCA met in Grand Island. Sheriff Miller requested them to designate a person to attend Commission and advisory board meetings to take information back to their group. Pat from Merrick County was designated to attend meetings.

Distribution of Commission Annual Report – Reports were distributed to advisory board members.

Break was taken at 11:50 a.m. Meeting reconvenes at 12:07 p.m.

Consideration of New Funding Requests

Platte County/Columbus PD Equipment Reimbursement -- Stacen Gross and Charles Sherer from Columbus Police Department were present to discuss the funding request. Equipment being replaced was purchased in the late 80s or early 90s. Equipment is obsolete at this time and is not fixable if it would go down. Platte/Columbus PD made purchase and is requesting to be reimbursed. Stacen Gross advised that system being purchased can be upgraded to next generation.

Mark Conrey makes a motion to approve the funding request as submitted to be forward to Commission. Neil Miller seconds motion. All advisory board members present voting aye. Motion carries.

Scotts Bluff County Communications -- Called Bob Brower to discuss request for funding. Bob Brower explained the request for funding to the advisory board. Sheriff Miller inquires if this can be upgraded to IP. Mr. Brower advises that he is not aware if it can be upgraded.

Isaac Brown makes a motion to approve request. Neil Miller seconds motion. Bill McLarty advises that this funding request should not be considered due to the fact that the funding form has not been submitted correctly. Board recommends that the county be contacted to clarify that this is a reimbursement. Discussion is had that the county should be made aware that if the funding is approved at a level lower than 100 percent that it is its obligation to purchase all equipment listed and not purchase less than it had requested because the funding request wasn't granted at 100 percent. Roll call vote is taken. Sheriff Miller, Pete Peterson, Bill McLarty, Bill Ashburn, Larry Lavelle vote no. Isaac Brown and Mark Conrey vote aye. Motion fails.

GIS Data Reimbursement for Internally Built Counties – Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster Counties have internal resources to develop GIS data. Issue posed is should these counties be eligible for reimbursement of their costs for development and maintenance of data? Mark Conrey expressed opinion that GIS data is already owned by the public due to the fact that it was paid for with general funds and it would not be appropriate for reimbursement to be sought.

Sheriff Miller discussed costs of GIS data maintenance. He advised that he felt the maintenance costs charged for zero percent or small percent growth counties should not be at the same level as counties with larger percentages of growth. Suggestion made to create staff position to upgrade the GIS data as opposed to paying third-party vendor to maintain.

County implementation of wireless cost recovery – The advisory board was informed that several PSAPs have instituted an occupation tax or wireless surcharge to recover revenue lost due to reduction in landline access lines.

Bill Ashburn made a motion to request the Commission to ask the attorney general if it is legal for counties to collect the surcharge. Sheriff Miller seconds motion.

Angela Melton advised that the Commission could not request an attorney general opinion to determine if a city or county's actions are legal. Mark Conrey advised could go to FCC to determine whether appropriate.

Bill Ashburn withdrew motion and Neil Miller withdraws his second to the motion.

Loel Brooks, representing Viaero and Sprint Nextel, expressed concern regarding this issue. Mr. Brooks suggested that the Commission could ask the attorney general if the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the assessment of 911 surcharges.

Jeff Pursley advised the advisory board that discussions had been had internally regarding this issue and that since this surcharge doesn't seek to replace the state's surcharge, it would be a function of the wireless carriers to clarify the matter.

Isaac Brown advised that he felt that the implementation of a wireless surcharge at the county level would undermine the authority of the Wireless E911 Fund. Discussion was had that this is inconsistent with what the Commission and advisory board are trying to accomplish.

Bill Ashburn discussed the issue that many of the companies are not in a position to collect on a county-by-county basis and that it would create confusion with customers.

Bill Ashburn makes a motion to request Commission to ask for an attorney general opinion to determine if the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the assessment of wireless 911 surcharges. Mark Conrey seconds the motion. All advisory board members present, voting aye. Motion carries.

Virgin Mobile Formal Request – The advisory board is informed that the Commission has received a formal request from Virgin Mobile, a prepaid wireless carrier, to have all prior remittances submitted be refunded. Discussion was had.

Status Reports

Fund Balance – Joan Raffety reported that the balance in the Fund is \$13,282.889.

Implementation Status – Joan Raffety provided a map to the advisory board showing implementation status in the state.

GIS Status – Joan Raffety provided documents to Advisory Board regarding status of GIS data build in the state for the counties which have entered into a contract with a GIS data development vendor under a PSC contract.

Sheriff Miller discussed that all 93 counties will need to have GIS data regardless of whether they have obtained Phase I or II status.

Bill McLarty discussed that the additional \$.20 of surcharge should be implemented to fund counties who cannot afford to do the work necessary to implement landline E911 on a loan or grant basis. Discussion was had and it was determined that a review of the statutes would need to take place to assess whether this could be done.

Mark Conrey discussed issues that were discovered regarding inaccuracies in call routing data and that these things should be corrected as PSAPs are moving to Phase II.

Discussions are had that there should be changes to establish minimum requirements for service and testing.

Recognition of Bill McLarty's contribution to the Advisory Board was made.

Next meeting scheduled for December 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Library.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.